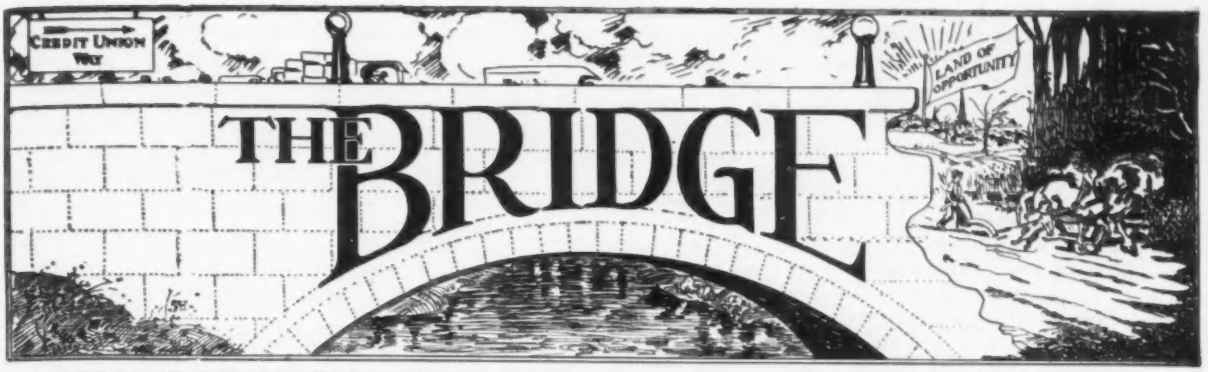


Vol. III, No. 5. THE BRIDGE October, 1926.

IN A COLLEGE TOWN.

Community Credit Union Organized at Institute, West Virginia.

The West Virginia Collegiate Institute is located at Institute, West Virginia, and the Collegiate Credit Union, according to a letter of recent date from Charles A. Stratton, representative of the Bureau in West Virginia, will serve the students and faculty of the Institute as well as the townspeople. Mr. Stratton is responsible for this new West Virginia Credit Union. He organized it on September 22nd and the organization papers were approved by the State Banking Department on the 25th. On the 27th a meeting was held for the election of officers, resulting as follows: Board of Directors: Robert Gaithers, President; Charles Rutherford, Treasurer; Louie Chatman, Vice-President; Ahwanda Packs, Secretary, and Theodora V. Fonteneau. The Credit Committee is composed of W. F. Savoy, Herman Pearson and Charles Hundley; the Supervisory Committee of Thomas Posey, Charles Cranford and Veretta Bundrant. Mr. Stratton writes that the credit union will operate on lines similar to the very successful credit union at Berea College, Kentucky. Mr. Stratton, who is Treasurer of the very successful Charleston Postal Employees' Credit Union, has recently undertaken to assist the Bureau with its organization work in his State. The Collegiate Credit Union is a fine beginning.

IN SOUTHERN GEORGIA.

61st Postal Credit Union Organized.

Leaving Atlanta, Georgia, Saturday, October 16th, at 4:20 P. M., the Executive Secretary of the Bureau arrived in Columbus, Georgia, four hours later to meet the employees of the Columbus Post Office. Mr. Guy W. Kilgore and Mr. J. W. Lavender of the Local Service Council had the matter in charge. The credit union plan was explained in detail and, as a result of the discussion it was voted to organize a credit union to be known as the Columbus Postal Employees Credit Union. The eight petitioners required by the Georgia law include Henry E. Talbutt, W. T. Robinson, L. J. Cumbaa, J. G. Slaughter, Guy W. Kilgore, V. H. DeBrabant, J. W. Lavender and G. A. Gullatte.

The credit union will include in its membership employees of the United States Government within a twenty-mile radius of Columbus, and the immediate families of the employees.

THE HEADGEAR WORKERS' CREDIT UNION OF NEW YORK RENDERS UNIQUE SERVICE.

One function of The BRIDGE is to note any extraordinary credit union development and also to tell of any

George M. Spector,
President, Headgear Workers' Credit Union.

unique service rendered by a credit union in order that other credit unions may have the benefit of such development of credit union service as goes on from time to time. It so happens that the Headgear Workers' Credit Union of New York is not only an illustration of rapid growth but also of unique service. The following, for example, is clipped from a recent news release issued by the Co-operative League and the information contained in this clipping has value for all credit unions.

"The Headgear Workers' Credit Union of New York is doing some in-

(Continued on Page 2.)

ATLANTA JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Undertakes Georgia Credit Union Development

The following clipping from the *Atlanta* (Ga.) *Constitution* of October 19th, forwarded by Mr. Bergengren from Atlanta just as the BRIDGE is going to press, is self-explanatory. Mr. Bergengren writes of his confidence that there will be a splendid development in Georgia. The clipping is as follows:

CREDIT UNIONS TO BE FOSTERED.

Organization of the small loan investment committee of the legal aid group of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce was perfected Monday following an address by Roy F. Bergengren, executive secretary of the Credit Union National Extension Bureau of Boston, at a joint session of the senior and junior Chambers of Commerce.

Under plans adopted, the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, through the committee and the legal aid division, will aid and co-operate in the organization of credit unions in this section. This course of action was adopted as a part of the fight being conducted by legal aid authorities against loan sharks in Atlanta.

Representatives of the Atlanta, Birmingham and Atlantic, the Louisville and Nashville, Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis, Atlanta and West Point and Georgia railroads were present at the meeting.

In his talk Mr. Bergengren outlined plans adopted for fostering credit unions in all

(Continued on Page 8.)

IN NOVEMBER.

Will be discussed in The BRIDGE the Fourth Annual Catholic Rural Life Conference held at Cincinnati October 20 and 21st. The program for the 21st included in the afternoon session a paper by the Executive Secretary of the Bureau, the subject being "The Rural Parish Credit Union" and a discussion of the applicability of the credit union plan to rural parish groups. As this may be the beginning of a most significant development of rural credit unions in the United States, this account of the work of the Conference pertaining to co-operative credit will be of particular interest to those who have long anticipated a rural credit union development.

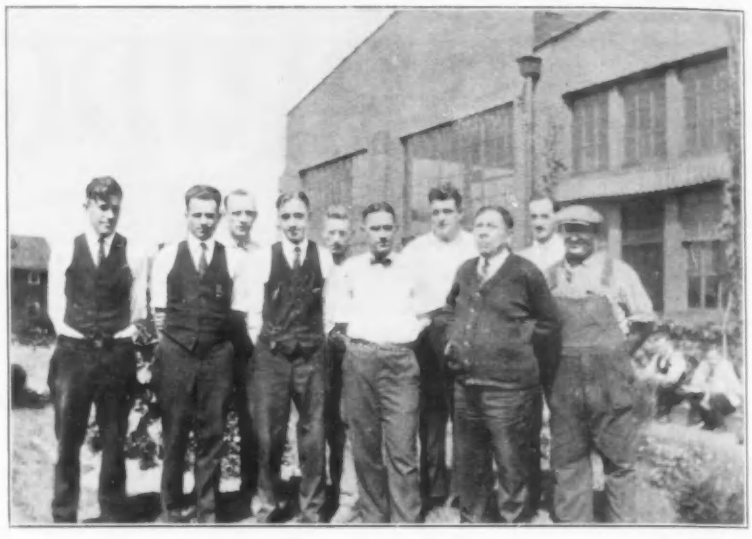
THE HEADGEAR WORKERS' CREDIT UNION OF NEW YORK RENDERS UNIQUE SERVICE.

(Continued from Page 1.)

teresting and unusual co-operative work . . . though organized only a little more than two years ago, they have 1,100 members and paid-in share capital of almost $150,000. At present they are taking out group life insurance for their members. Any member of the credit union, by paying ninety cents per month, gets $1,000 protection under this group insurance plan. Another new service being provided for the members is a checking service. Many of the headgear workers have no connection with any regular bank and therefore have no means of procuring checks for the easy mailing of money. This credit union offers a checking service free to its members. The man or woman who wants to pay an electric bill, gas bill or installment and send a check through the mails merely brings the cash into the office of the credit union and the cashier makes out a check to the order of the member."

Something of the reason of the success of this particular credit union is indicated in a letter of recent date to the Bureau from its President, George M. Spector. Among other things, Mr. Spector writes: "I would like to impart to the readers of The BRIDGE some of the facts pertaining to the condition and growth of our credit union. First, we have provided a perfect working machine for the officers of the organization. The utmost mutual confidence is displayed. This condition brings us to a unanimity of opinion on vital issues concerning organization matters and so creates a wholesome atmosphere of co-operation among the officers. Each of us is in close touch with the great army of 1,020 members. There are continuous conferences of an intimate nature between the officers and the members on the question of investments. It is this manifestation of interest on the part of the officers that earns us the confidence of the membership and simultaneously insures the safety of the loans extended, which have amounted thus far to nearly a half million dollars, with not a cent lost. Our officers are closely watching the growth of the Credit Union Movement through various channels and as soon as it is noticed that a credit union is growing into significant proportions, we observe the methods, policies and tactics employed and attempt, if possible, to apply similar ones to our organization."

There is much food for reflection—particularly for credit union officers—in Mr. Spector's letter.



OFFICERS FERALUN CREDIT UNION.

AMERICAN ABRASIVE METALS COMPANY—IRVINGTON, N. J.

Left to Right—W. Karkhuff, H. King, Vice-President, F. Lynch, A. E. Miller, Credit Committee. A. Scott, V. Banning, Secretary-Treasurer, M. Holmes, C. Minanick, Credit Committee. J. Burger, Credit Committee; and E. Schraft.

THE FERALUN CREDIT UNION.

Serves Effectively Employees of the American Abrasive Metals Co.

The April issue of The BRIDGE announced the organization at Irvington, New Jersey, of the Feralun Credit Union, composed of employees of the American Abrasive Metals Company. Some weeks elapsed after the organization meeting before the charter was finally granted and the credit union did not start doing business much before June. Its August 31st statement shows that in two months it had a membership of ninety-nine, total assets of $955, with outstanding loans of $654. Mr. Vincent Banning, Treasurer of the Credit Union, posts each week a bulletin showing the condition of the credit union for the week and the September 15 statement shows an even hundred members with loans outstanding of $1,010, a total business to date of almost fourteen hundred dollars, a week's business of $143. This credit union is having the same experience as the fine industrial credit unions at the Worthington Pump & Machinery Corporation at Harrison and the Roebling Company in Trenton. The three demonstrate how well the credit union law in New Jersey works out in practice. We hope shortly to carry an account of the initial experiences of the credit union organized even more recently among the employees of the Schwarzenbach-Huber Company at Union City.

REAL ENTHUSIASM AT GRAND RAPIDS.

Last spring a credit union was organized among the postal employees of the Grand Rapids (Michigan) office. Mr. Frank A. Thornton of that office had been for some time corresponding with the Bureau relative to the matter and the group seemed particularly receptive to the credit union plan. Now comes a letter from Mr. Thornton that has so much good cheer in it that it is as welcome as a Christmas box from home.

"We are going like a house afire," writes Mr. Thornton. With total receipts already of $1,492.29, he writes that September will be the banner month and already (September 13) "we have received $971.28 and have requests for about $2,000 in loans waiting." "I heard of a fellow whose grandmother had left him a dime as his share of her estate so I got old Lizzie out and started across the country with an application card to get his membership in the Credit Union before he started to paint the town red; we landed him." Mr. Thornton concludes with an offer to help in the general credit union development. Once credit union folks get that notion—that they assist in increasing the number of credit unions—the credit union development will be greatly accelerated.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO CO-OPERATORS!

Credit unions are co-operative savings and loan associations. There are credit union laws now in 24 States, including your State. The credit union is the adoption in the United States of the co-operative banking plan developed by Raiffeisen in Germany and Desjardins in Canada. *The Credit Union National Extension Bureau is financed by Edward A. Filene, a merchant of Boston, much interested in the development of credit unions, as a disinterested public service without charge, direct or indirect, for any service we may render.* Our job involves securing the enactment of credit union laws and organizing in each State enough credit unions so that they may organize a State Credit Union League and thereafter carry on the credit union development without assistance. The work of the Bureau will continue about three years more, its purpose being simply to get the credit union development started. The BRIDGE is the official organ of the Bureau.

Do you want to know more about credit unions?

Do you want assistance in the organization of a credit union in your town?

Do you want to keep informed as to the development of co-operative banking in the United States?

Shall we continue to send you The BRIDGE?

If so, please take your scissors and cut here after filling in the blank and then please mail it in to the

Editor of The BRIDGE,
Room 23
5 Park Square **Boston, Mass.**

(Cut Here)

Please keep sending The BRIDGE to

(Address) .....

(Name) .....

NEWS FROM THE PIONEERS

Miss Frances P. Habern

Massachusetts Editor

A WORTHWHILE SUGGESTION.

Mr. Mark A. Adams, President of the Lowell Bleachery Credit Union, made an excellent suggestion in a recent letter, which The BRIDGE passes on to treasurers of plant credit unions in particular: "It might interest you to know that our best advertising through the year is the distribution of our dividend checks, which we habitually do by placing them in the pay envelopes of our members. Of course, some of them are very small, but the distribution of several hundred checks in one day always brings us in quite a bunch of applications for membership within the next week or two."

GUARANTY FUND OF COMMUNITY CREDIT UNIONS.

Credit Unions, organized under Credit Union laws, are required to set apart each year a part (generally 20%) of their net earnings as a guaranty fund. In addition, in Massachusetts, a further reserve fund is often set up. This is one of the great safeguards in the law and is interesting in view of the fact that there have been no involuntary liquidations of credit unions during all the difficult war and post-war periods. Someone in the office of The BRIDGE was interested recently to make some examination of the rapidity with which the guaranty fund develops. The Blue Hill Neighborhood Credit Union, for example, did not begin doing business until 1921; yet its report for the year ending October 31, 1925, showed a guaranty fund already totaling $5,528. The Mt. Bowdoin Credit Union, operating also since 1921, a smaller credit union, with assets October 31, 1925, of $58,440, had a guaranty fund of $2,246 in addition to a substantial reserve fund. The Shawmut Credit Union, with assets of $53,581, had a guaranty fund of $3,558. The Warren Credit Union, also of 1921, and with assets of $33,858, had a guaranty fund of $1,553. The West End Credit Union had a guaranty fund on that date of $13,138.

CO-OPERATIVE COAL PURCHASING.

Many credit unions are educating their members in an extremely useful demand for borrowing—that of purchasing coal co-operatively.

The usual practice is for the member to effect a loan through the credit union, repaying it on the usual basis; the credit union paying the coal dealer in cash.

Among the credit unions performing this service for their members are:

Telephone Workers Credit Union.

Boston Post Office Employees Credit Union.

Graton & Knight Company Employees Credit Union, Worcester.

Springfield Jewish Workers Credit Union.

D. M. C. Credit Union (Dennison Manufacturing Company), Framingham.

This is an excellent form of service and should be encouraged.

CLOSE OF FISCAL YEAR.

The fiscal year of the credit union ends October 31. As we understand it, preliminary return reports will be sent out from the Commissioner of Banks' office, but the yearly report will not be called for until some time in January.

This insures to the Commissioner the new personnel of the officers, directors and committees of the credit union, who are elected at the annual meeting during November.

If the preliminary report form does not reach you in due time, please get in touch with the League.

ANNUAL MEETING OF LEAGUE.

The Annual Meeting of the Credit Union League will be held on Tuesday, December 7, 1926, at Perkins Hall, 264 Boylston Street, Boston, at 7:30 o'clock P. M.

Line up your two delegates and have them ready to vote at the meeting!

NOMINATIONS FOR DIRECTORS.

If you have not already done so, please send in to the League the name of the member from your credit union as a candidate for the Board of Directors of the League.

This year ten directors are to be elected to serve for two years.

For your information the following directors were elected last year for a two-year term:

Charles F. Donahoe, Southern Massachusetts Telephone Workers' Credit Union, Springfield.
Mrs. Helen M. Dunlap, F. C. A. (Filene's), Boston.
Albert A. Golding, Brockton.
Miss Caroline L. Humphrey, Industrial, Boston.
John L. Laverty, Boston Post Office Employees.
Frank R. Sawyer, Mansfield.
George H. Shute, Hygrade, Salem.
John Suominen, Workers, Fitchburg.
A. Ralph Vaccaro, Shawmut, Boston.
William H. Wellen, St. Mary's Parish, Marlborough.

The ten Directors whose present term of office expires are:

Thomas J. Barry, Brockton Postal Employees.
Charles W. Birtwell, Traders, Boston.
Joseph Campana, Social Service, Boston.
Arthur N. Fernald, Credit Union National Extension Bureau, Boston.
Harry H. Hall, D. M. C. (Dennison's), Framingham.
Charles W. Harvey, Gilco, Boston.
Nathan Josephs, Worcester.
Jacob W. Mover, Progressive Workmen's, Malden.
Dr. John G. Perman, Skandia, Worcester.
David Scott, Peoples, Winthrop.

Please send in your choice as early as possible; and at all events before November 3rd, so that the ballot can be made up and sent out.

POINTS IN THE NEW LAW TO BE REMEMBERED:

1—The members at the annual meeting elect Directors.

The Directors at their annual meeting elect officers, and *Committees:* which places the responsibility for the credit union's solvency with the Directors.

2—Remember—it is *ten per cent of the gross income*—instead of as previously—*twenty per cent of the net income*—which goes to the Guaranty Fund.

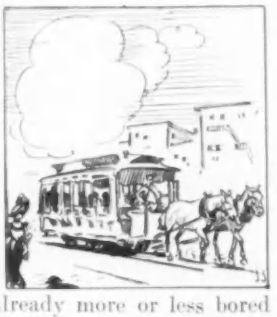
NEW INDUSTRIAL CREDIT UNION PETITION FILED.

The writer visited the plant of the Morgan Construction Company in Worcester on October 22, at the request of the Employment Manager, with the result that a petition has been filed for a credit union.

This plant has about eight hundred employees. We shall watch further developments with much interest.

EVOLUTIONIST OR DEVILUTIONIST?

We do not live in a static state. Nor do we relive the yesterdays. Today crowds us into tomorrow. I recall the first horse car in my town. It went by my house and all the neighbors lined the sidewalks to witness the miracle. Now they are tearing up the electric car tracks, as the "trolley" is on its sad way to commune with the one-horse chaise in Oblivion! We are stunned by the radio—and already more or less bored with it. Yesterday the furtive prize fighter flitted under cover of the dark from town to town to carry on his illicit business; today the new champion rides up the Avenue in a triumph remindful of the Caesars—to be received by the Mayor and acclaimed by the populace. A few months ago every Ford car had the Florida itch; leave your car unhitched for a careless moment and you couldn't catch it this side of Miami. We were all on our way to the pot of gold at the end of the Florida rainbow; it would not be charitable right now to ask the bell-hop to "page the Boom." Nothing stands still. We move—not always in the right direction but always in motion. I suppose that the responsibility which attaches to each succeeding generation is that we "evolute" (if there be such a word)—rather than "devilute." I mean by "evolute"—the urge to improvement, the business of sometimes crawling, sometimes flopping, sometimes (very occasionally) rushing in the right direction. By "devilute" (if I may coin a new word which almost explains itself) I mean the urge to evolute backwards as it were—the purpose to turn man back into a monkey—to tear along with the Devil in the wrong direction. When you look around—what a lot of devilutionists there are, to be sure! The struggle between evolutionist and devilutionist is eternal and the welfare of the human family is always in the balance, depending on the outcome of the issue.



Take medicine—and surgery—for example. The race, through many of its most choice specimens, has done itself proud in its capacity to get a better understanding of disease and to lengthen average human life. It is clearly up to the rest of us, however, to make such use of the years that the doctors and surgeons will not be conscience-stricken.

Examine usury as one human ill and note how badly we have approached the problem and what little we have done to check the usurer. "The problem of usury is not new," writes Franklin W. Ryan in the preface to his recent authoritative book "Usury and Usury Laws." "Solon and Aristotle had something to say on the subject in ancient Greece. Livy and Tacitus, the Roman historians, touched on the problem." Two thousand years ago Christ drove the money lenders from the temple. Why has the usurer so long bedeviled the human race? Why is it a fact that there have been loan shark disclosures within the year in such great centers of population as Seattle, Atlanta, New Orleans, Indianapolis, Chicago—to mention but a few of them?

The reason is more or less obvious. I am not a naturalist and have never been interested to verify the common belief that when an ostrich sees his enemy approaching he seeks safety by burying his head in the sand. God gave the ostrich such fine, long legs that it must have been originally intended that, for that particular bird, safety would lie in flight. But it is a fact that many of us humans meet unsavory problems by hiding away from them. We so develop our economic system as to encourage the worker to get into debt and at the same time we create no credit facilities for him. We then find usury in our town and expect to eliminate it by passing resolutions. We hide from it behind some ancient, unenforceable, obsolete usury law. We aid and abet the usurer because, for the most part, we leave him with a monopoly in the small loans field. You can reduce the cost of money to the wage worker and the small farmer without bank credit resources only by assisting him to create credit resources for himself. Because members of a co-operative society have no incentive to play the usurer to each other—you can help to eliminate usury most effectively by assisting in the development of co-operative credit societies. If the worker has a usurious appendix the credit union can be depended on to operate successfully. The credit union is the evolutionary way of curing this particularly pesky and altogether terrible economic disease.

The Russell Sage Foundation, urging small loan laws which will bring the private lender under regulation and co-operating with the lender to enforce these laws, is doing splendid work and richly deserves co-operation. The credit union work now carried on in twenty-four States by the Credit Union National Extension Bureau in co-operation with an increasing number of credit unions and credit unionists is the next evolutionary step. If all those who hate usury would dig themselves out of the sand and face the problem squarely—the national effort to scotch the usurers for all time would make amazing headway.

SALARY PURCHASING.
A New Form of "Loan Shark" Practice.

This is the conclusion of an article begun in the September BRIDGE. Copy of the September issue may be had on application.

The following extracts are clipped from an article entitled "The Salary Buyer Must Go," published in the August issue of *The Locomotive Engineers Journal*. The article is a very authoritative discussion of the subject by Mr. Leon Henderson, Director of the Division of Remedial Loans of the Russell Sage Foundation, who has made an exhaustive study of this particular evil.

Mr. Henderson writes of a new sort of loan sharks who "are terrorizing railway workers . . . through a new device known as 'salary buying.' . . . The Russell Sage Foundation is waging a winning battle to stamp out these loan sharks by broadcasting the information that their contracts are void or voidable and can be ignored. Better yet, their contracts should be brought into court to pave the way for penitentiary terms for violations of State usury laws. . . . .

"Salary buying is the most vicious type of usury yet evolved . . . the story of salary buying, seen as a picture of operation of scores of chain companies in many States, is a nauseating one of bribery, corruption, intimidation, and open violation of the law. Thousands of dollars, mainly extracted from the pay checks of railroad men, are utilized to protect this system, which, the salary buyers boast, nets millions of profits each year." Mr. Henderson cites cases: One man who paid $312 interest on a $10 loan and was sued for the principal; one Atlanta employee who borrowed $25 in 1918, and through terror he paid over $400 in interest and was garnisheed for $64 principal; a colored employee was discovered who out of a monthly pay check of $75 was paying $21.85 monthly to these lenders. A railroad worker in Chicago appealed to the district attorney to prevent the loss of his job by garnishment. He had paid $1,080 for a loan of $30, and still owed the $30. Mr. Henderson concludes his article as follows: "Out of the welter and suffering resulting from the exactions of salary buyers and other loan sharks should come a great wave of credit unions—those co-operative mutual loan societies, owned and administered by their members, loaning to their members for worthy purposes at low rates of interest and paying all profits to members in the form of dividends. Already there are more than 40 credit unions among postal workers. Railroad workers have been laggard in taking advantage of the spread of credit union laws to 24 States, but enthusiastic credit unions organized by railroad men in New England and Chicago are already doing an amazing business that serves as an example."

The Credit Union National Extension Bureau carries on its work as a disinterested public service. Therefore credit union literature is available free to anyone interested on application to the Bureau at 5 Park Square, Boston, Massachusetts. The Bureau is also equipped to help you in your State secure the enactment of a credit union law if there is no such law and to organize your group as a credit union once the law is enacted. The Bureau solicits the opportunity to co-operate with you, and solicits your co-operation.

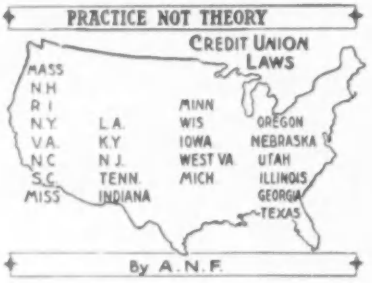
A WELCOME LETTER FROM MR. ADAMS.

Miss Etta R. McDermott,
Treasurer—Lowell Bleachery Credit Union

A recent letter to Mark A. Adams, President of the Lowell Bleachery Credit Union (Lowell, Massachusetts) brought the picture of Miss McDermott (whom we are very glad indeed to be able to introduce herewith to BRIDGE readers) and some very interesting data relative to the credit union. Mr. Adams writes: "It may interest you to know that Miss McDermott has been Treasurer of the Lowell Bleachery Credit Union since its beginning nearly five years ago, and under her care it has grown from nothing to total assets of about $25,000 and a total membership September 1st of 268. During its existence this Credit Union has never lost a dollar from bad debts and that it has been administered for the benefit of both savers and borrowers is evident by the fact that everybody has a good word for it, from the President of the Lowell Bleachery, who declares that it has been thoroughly successful, down to the man who this week completed payment for his home, for the purchase of which the Credit Union furnished the money—not to mention the man whose borrowings have enabled him to give his child proper hospital treatment; another whose loan went to purchase a sister from practical slavery in Turkey, and many more." Mr. Adams closes his very welcome letter with a good word for The BRIDGE and the Bureau. "I am always interested to read The BRIDGE, and wish to extend my best wishes to you in the work you are doing in spreading the Credit Union idea."

A COMPLIMENT.

The recently revised Massachusetts credit union law, described in the July issue of *Co-operation* as "the most liberal credit union law in the country," recognizes the fact that there are many organizations doing a business somewhat akin to a credit union business but without organization under any regulatory law. Any such organization properly managed and conducting its affairs in accordance with credit union principles should, both for the protection of those who manage it and the members whose money is invested in the organization, be subject to some plan of supervision. Credit unions report to the State Department of Banking in Massachusetts and are annually examined by that Department. The revised Massachusetts law says that any organization seeking to do a credit union business must organize as a credit union under the credit union law. *Thus again the seal of official approval is placed on the credit union plan of organization.*



MORE ABOUT THE RURAL CREDIT UNION.

A recent issue of *Catholic Rural Life* carries an article entitled "The Rural Credit Union a Great Aid to the Farmer," by the Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, Director of the Catholic Rural Life Bureau, from which article the following is clipped:

"The economic welfare of the farmer is today occupying the attention of the country. That the farmer is taxed out of proportion to his income is obvious. That the present tariff system and transportation rates operate largely to his disadvantage cannot be successfully controverted. These are disabilities caused by inequitable legislation and should promptly be removed by amending the law. The development of rural co-operative enterprises in buying and selling is regarded by many as the key to the agricultural economic paradise. While the movement will be of immense economic value to the farmer it should not be presented merely as an economic program for two reasons: first, because it would raise extravagant expectations of material gains from this source and, secondly, it would tend to becloud the vast social, cultural and moral benefits of co-operation—benefits which would justify co-operation apart from more material gains. The rural program of the Catholic Church abroad throws important light on the weakest spot in the farmers' economic life and on the suitable remedy. It is the millstones of finance that have caught the farmer in their tender embrace. And not until the farmer gets a voice in the management of the financial mill will it let him be free and even grind grist for his consumption. This voice in the control of credit he has secured in a number of countries by the establishment of co-operative rural savings and loan banks—coming to be known in this country as rural credit unions. In Europe the money-lenders had the peasants in their clutches. In more than one European country the organization under Catholic auspices of rural credit unions broke the control of the money lenders. The American farmer, too, is paying a back-breaking tribute to the money-lender. . . . The whole Catholic rural movement in Europe is based on a recognition of the importance of financial independence for the farmer. In thousands of country parishes or groups of parishes the co-operative savings and loan society is organized. In Belgium, Holland, Germany, Italy and Spain to speak only of the countries where the most progress has been made, these local savings and loans banks are affiliated so as to form great provincial and national banking systems. . . . the story of the co-operative savings and loan banks as operated under the auspices of Catholic rural organizations in Europe and in Canada is commended to all who wish to know by what practical means Catholic country parishes can improve the economic condition of their members."

IN THE DAILY GRIST.

Uncle Sam keeps the Credit Union National Extension Bureau in touch with the world, and while The BRIDGE isn't big enough to hold all the reactions we get to credit union activity, yet the following extracts from letters received indicate something of the extent of present interest in the subject. Incidentally, the chances are getting better every day that your own letter carrier is a credit unionist, as there are credit unions of letter carriers in over sixty cities.

From Charleston, West Virginia: "Any co-operation that I can give you do not hesitate to call on me, as I will be at your command." To prove it this correspondent went out and organized a community credit union in a neighboring town.

From Indianapolis, Indiana: "I have written to the President of the local federation (of school teachers) asking for an opportunity to be heard." The first credit union of school teachers at San Diego, California, inspired the second one at Detroit, Michigan, and then came credit unions of school teachers at Chicago and St. Paul, and, as this is being written, interest stirs among teachers in Atlanta, Georgia, and Indianapolis. Will there eventually be a national chain of credit unions of school teachers?

The Treasurer of a Credit Union at Springfield, Massachusetts, telephones that he will be glad to co-operate in the organization meeting of the credit union recently chartered in that city to serve street railway employees. Credit unionists do splendid work spreading the credit union gospel.

TEN DAYS SOUTH.

Executive Secretary on a Short Trip.

The Executive Secretary of the Bureau started October 12th on a ten days' trip covering Baltimore, Md., Washington, D. C., Richmond, Va., Atlanta, Ga., Jackson, Miss., Louisville, Ky., and Cincinnati, Ohio. As The BRIDGE goes to press we are beginning to get some returns from the trip. In Baltimore Mr. Bergengren, in company with Mr. Moses Morris of Morris & Company of that city, and Mr. Robert S. Mooney of the Corporation Bond Company, also of Baltimore, conferred with Bank Commissioner Page relative to the form of credit union legislation in the event a bill is offered in the 1927 legislature. An afternoon at Washington was crowded with appointments, particularly with Mr. Louis Brehm, Assistant Director of Service Relations of the Office of the Postmaster General and with representatives of organizations of postal employees interested in the possible enactment of credit union legislation for the District of Columbia. A conference was held with Dr. James Ryan at the office of the Catholic National Welfare Council relative to the same subject. Finally, in the absence from Washington of Mr. John J. O'Connor of the Finance Section of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, a conference was held with Dr. B. F. Moore of that Department with most satisfactory results. Mr. Bergengren spent a day in Richmond in consultation with various correspondents of the Bureau relative to a permanent credit union organization program for Virginia. He also attended two important meetings looking to the possible organization of a group of credit unions to serve employees of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad in Virginia and West Virginia. Mr. E. L. Field, President of the very successful credit union at the Richmond Post Office, and officials of the postal credit union at Petersburg, Va., were particularly co-operative, and at a representative Chesapeake & Ohio employees' meeting at Murphy's Hotel on the evening of the 15th Mr. Field explained in detail how the credit union at the Richmond Post Office operates. Mr. Thomas C. Boushall, President of the Richmond Morris Plan Bank, with other representatives of the Bank, entertained Mr. R. W. Carrington, who represents the Bureau in Virginia, Mr. Field and Mr. Bergengren at luncheon at the Westmoreland Club. It is hoped that as a result of the day in Richmond plans will evolve for a permanent organization program in Virginia. Other details of the trip will appear in the November BRIDGE.

UNCLE SAM SIGNS UP!
An Interesting Discovery in Cincinnati.

Some day—The BRIDGE will be abandoned, discontinued, with detour signs on each end, while a better and bigger BRIDGE, built by the National Credit Union League, will take its place. Some day the Bureau will be a memory and Mr. Filene's service—like that of Raiffeisen and Desjardins—will be permanently woven into history as a part of the progress of his day, which had a lasting importance and made possible the greater progress of the generations that followed him. Some day the Executive Secretary of the Bureau will sit, an old, old man, in the chimney corner with memories for companions; when he toddles on some particularly bright summer morning to the office of the National Credit Union League, some youthful guardian of the outer portal will assure him that the Secretary of the League "is in conference" and "can only be seen by appointment" and thereby rid himself of the old nuisance. Pioneers—cellar builders—getting a kick out of the job because of its novelty and its as yet unrecognized worthwhileness!

The purpose of this particular outburst, however, is not to arouse premature sympathy for the Executive Secretary of the Bureau but rather to illustrate just what a kick it is possible to get occasionally out of the job.

It happened in Cincinnati. In ten days the Executive Secretary of the Bureau had visited Baltimore, Washington, Richmond, Atlanta, Jackson, Mississippi, Louisville and Cincinnati—traveling in thirteen states and working in six of them—six nights on sleepers with each day crowded well into the evening. Through the courtesy of Mr. Philip E. Ziegler, editor of the *Railway Clerk*, a very well attended and important meeting in behalf of the proposed Ohio credit union bill had been called for the last evening of the trip—October 21st—at the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks Building in Cincinnati. During the progress of the meeting two of those present seemed particularly interested and, when the inevitable question period arrived, there came the real kick of the entire trip. There is a credit union in Kentucky of recent origin about which the Bureau knew nothing! It has a name as long as your arm and officers and members who have boundless confidence and enthusiasm. Take a long breath and repeat the name after me—"The Uncle Sam Lodge, No. 639, Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, Credit Union"—of Newport, Kentucky—almost as many names as the Prince of Wales!

Joseph F. Kessen is President. He lives at 308 South Fort Thomas Ave., Fort Thomas, Kentucky, and he will be very glad indeed to tell you of the fine service which the credit union has already rendered to its members. Membership is limited to Uncle Sam Lodge, No. 639, and of the four hundred members of the lodge eligible to membership one hundred and sixty are already members of the credit union.

Later on we hope to have a picture of the Directors for The BRIDGE. Meantime all we can say is—"Thrice welcome, Uncle Sam!" When Uncle Sam is with us who can be against us?

EXCELLENT PROGRESS AT THE GEORGIA RAILWAY AND POWER COMPANY.

Some months ago we announced the organization of the Public Service Credit Union at Atlanta, designed to serve the employees of the Georgia Railway and Power Company. A recent letter from Mr. Dick contains a very welcome statement showing the rapid progress which the credit union is making. It has present assets of thirty-six hundred dollars with loans outstanding totalling approximately thirty-three hundred dollars. During the month of September it received on share payments $591.50 and as repayments on loans $378.50 and made loans for the month totalling $1,180. As noted elsewhere in this issue of The BRIDGE there will shortly be organized in Atlanta credit unions of school teachers, a credit union of the Atlantic Steel Company and several within railroad groups. The Junior Chamber of Commerce is undertaking an intensive credit union development campaign in Atlanta and a rapid Georgia development is anticipated.

SCHOOL TEACHERS IN MINNEAPOLIS

A recent letter from Thomas W. Doig of Minneapolis contains the interesting news that he met recently with a group of Minneapolis school teachers for the purpose of explaining the credit union plan to them and that the group expects to be ready to organize when Mr. Bergengren is in Minneapolis in early November.

AN INTERESTING CLIPPING.

A clipping wandered into the office the other day—apparently from some New York newspaper—containing a most interesting account of the credit union recently organized by the members of Consumers' Co-operative Services, Inc. This is the way it opens up: "A bank ready at all times to cast financial life preservers to folks with small incomes has come into being in a little, old-fashioned, red brick house at No. 54 Irving Place. This bank has no marble pillars, frescoed ceilings or other evidences of grandeur that are to be found in many of the more pretentious institutions; neither has it an array of steel-eyed officials of the sort who want to apply a stethoscope to every applicant's cash pocket and put his collateral to an acid test before talking business." That reporter got a good working notion of a credit union without much difficulty.

The balance of the article is mostly an interview with Cary A. Rowland, Chairman of the Credit Committee, who describes the credit union very accurately as "an institution of, by and for the folks with small incomes." Already *Our Credit Union* has more than 500 members. *Our Credit Union* is the most recent outgrowth of the Consumers' Co-operative Services, Inc., of which Miss Mary Arnold is the guiding spirit, which operates five co-operative cafeterias, foodshops, three laundries and a library. The personnel of the Board of Managers sounds like a page from "Who's Who." Mr. Arthur E. Albrecht, Head of the New York Department of Foods and Markets, is President; Mr. Raymond K. Snavely, Associate Editor of the *Review of Reviews*, is Vice-President; Mr. A. Sutcliffe, of the Bankers' Trust Company, is Treasurer; and Leslie E. Woodcock, associated in the management and direction of Consumers' Co-operative Services, is Secretary. The Board also includes William L. Chenery of *Collier's*, Charles B. Barnes, and LeRoy E. Bowman, professor of sociology at Columbia. That the credit union has an increasingly universal appeal to the sort of folks whose identity with credit union organization will do more than any other one thing to induce a rapid credit union development in the United States, is of very great importance.

TWO PROBABLE CREDIT UNIONS AT ASHEVILLE, N. C.

While in Atlanta recently Mr. Bergengren had a very pleasant session with Mr. C. A. Klutz, Treasurer of the credit union which serves employees of the Southern Railway at Asheville, N. C. Mr. Klutz came to Atlanta to talk over credit union matters, and brought with him not only a good report as to the fine service his credit union is rendering, but also news of the probable organization of a credit union shortly at the Asheville Post Office, and another to serve the employees of a large paper mill in that city.

Under the Umbrella

While in Jackson, Mississippi, the Executive Secretary of the Bureau made arrangements with Mr. D. A. Burgin, one of the foremost attorneys of the State, to assist in the credit union development work in Mississippi.

The following is from a recent bulletin of the American Merchandising Corporation: "Anent Finance, Ayres Credit Union, 19 months old, has 480 members with $54,000 assets invested in mortgages and personal loans; a start towards financial independence for almost 50% of our employees. If your store hasn't a credit union or some similar type of savings bank consult E. A. Filene, daddy of them all, as to their possibilities."

There is interest in the organization of a community credit union at Danville, Virginia. Mr. W. E. Touchstone, of the Piedmont Cash Grocery Company, has the matter in charge.

An interesting prize contest is being conducted by the Telephone Workers' Credit Union of Boston, open to members of the eight credit unions and of the other co-operative banks (building and loan associations) composed of Company employees. The prizes will be awarded to the stories which, "in the opinion of the judges, will be most helpful in stimulating an interest in thrift."

The initial meeting of a group of the employees of the Worcester (Massachusetts) Post Office interested in the organization of a credit union at that place was held Sunday, September 26. Those present voted to organize a credit union and the petition for a credit union charter is now pending before the Massachusetts Board of Bank Incorporation.

The Bureau has recently supplied data to the Chief of the Co-operative Section of the International Labour Office at Geneva, Switzerland, relative to the Massachusetts Credit Union League, for publication in the Directory of Co-operative Organization, now in process of preparation by the International Labour Office. This Directory will fill a long-felt want.

FIFTH CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS.

At Minneapolis, November 4, 5 and 6.

The fifth National Congress of the Co-operative League of the United States of America will be held at the Franklin Co-operative Creamery Auditorium, Minneapolis, Minnesota, on November 4, 5 and 6. The program includes a discussion on the afternoon of the 5th, beginning at 2 o'clock, of the general subject, "Should the League Undertake the Organization of a Co-operative Banking Society? Should it Throw its Support to the Credit Union Movement or Should it Promote Legislation to Authorize Existing Consumers' Societies to Accept Savings Deposits from Members?" The Executive Secretary of the Bureau, who will be in Minnesota in connection with credit union organization work at the time, will probably participate in the discussion. Credit unions in Minneapolis and St. Paul have been invited to send delegations to attend the various conferences. The Franklin Co-operative Creamery Association is one of the largest and most successful co-operative business organizations in the United States. It does an annual business of over four million dollars and has 5,000 members.

ATLANTA JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

(Continued from Page 1.)

parts of the United States. He spoke specifically on the course of action to be followed in Atlanta and Georgia, declaring that employers of ten or more persons would be aided in the formation of credit unions under the national plan.

Members of the committee named were: Wharton Wilson, chairman; John Tye, Jr., Herman Hyman, William Matthews and J. L. R. Boyd, secretary. Mr. Boyd is counsel for the Atlanta Legal Aid Society and has taken an active part in the campaign to establish credit unions.

The Chambers of Commerce, through creation of this committee, will become allied with railroads and other corporations in Atlanta in fostering organization of these unions.

ATLANTA PERSONNEL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION DISCUSSES CREDIT UNIONS.

Through the courtesy of Mr. George Deibert and Mr. J. P. McGrath, Mr. Bergengren addressed the Association of Atlanta Personnel Directors at their meeting on Friday evening, October 15th. This was an exceptional opportunity to tell the credit union story where it would effectively forward the Atlanta credit union development.

ANOTHER LARGE INDUSTRIAL CREDIT UNION IN GEORGIA.

Atlantic Steel Company to Organize.

The Executive Secretary of the Bureau conferred on October 19th with executives of the Atlantic Steel Company at Atlanta, Georgia, on invitation of Mr. Paul Miller, Treasurer of that Company, relative to the organization of a credit union to serve the thousand employes of that Company. The Company has decided to organize in such fasion that the credit union may start doing business January 1st. This credit union is partly the result of an earlier visit to the plant by Miss Melville.

THE PROOF OF THE PUDDING.

At a meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, recently, Mr. George M. Gentry, who manages the very successful credit union of the A. B. & A. Railroad employees, told members of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce that prior to the organization of the credit union at the A. B. & A. wage assignments of employees of the road averaged from 200 to 300 a month, and that by the organization of the credit union the number of assignments has already been reduced to a monthly average of from 3 to 4. *All railroad personnel officers interested in the elimination of usury as practiced on railroad employees please take notice.* Mr. Gentry will tell you about it if you will write him at the Atlanta, Birmingham & Atlantic Railroad, Brown Building, Atlanta, Georgia.

TEACHERS IN ATLANTA INTERESTED.

As the result of a meeting at the Walker Street School, headquarters of the Atlanta Board of Education, held on October 18th, the following committee was appointed to report at an adjourned meeting Saturday, October 23rd, as to the organization of one or more credit unions to serve Atlanta school teachers. The meeting was called by H. K. Hunter, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, and the Committee appointed consists of Miss Elizabeth Baker, Chairman, W. S. Brown, J. P. Barron, H. O. Smith, Miss Lutie Head, A. G. Martin and M. E. Coleman. Sentiment in favor of organization was very strong, and the only question concerns whether a single credit union to serve all the teachers of Atlanta should be organized or a group of credit unions operating within various groups of teachers. There are approximately 1500 teachers in Atlanta.

EMPLOYES OF THE MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE INTERESTED.

Mr. Doig writes of an appointment to meet with an organization committee from the Minneapolis Tribune, at which time it is anticipated a petition for a credit union charter will be drawn up and forwarded to the State Banking Department.